



September 2005

Status Report on Previously Approved Degrees

HECB Information Item

This is an informational report to the members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its September 22 meeting. No board action is necessary at this time.

Background

The current Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Guidelines for Program Planning, Approval and Review* authorize the executive director to approve proposals by public four-year institutions to extend existing degree programs to branch campuses or new off-campus locations, or to offer them via distance learning technologies or through a combination of delivery methods.

The process requires an institution to notify the HECB at least 45 days before the proposed start date of the program. This "notification of intent" (NOI) includes the following information:

- Degree title
- Delivery mechanism
- Location
- Proposed program start date
- Statement of need for the program
- Source(s) of funding
- Enrollment targets

HECB staff post the information on the HECB Web site within five business days after receiving the proposal and notify the provosts of the other public four-year institutions, the Independent Colleges of Washington, the Council of Presidents, and the four-year universities' Committee on Academic Program Planning. Interested parties have 30 days to review and comment, and if there are no objections, the HECB executive director will approve the proposal.

Status Report

From June 2005 through August 2005, the HECB executive director approved the expansion of two degree programs. Central Washington University received approval to expand the BA in Mathematics: Teaching Secondary Major to students at the Lynnwood Center, effective June 21, 2005. Eastern Washington University received approval to offer the BA in Children's Studies: Early Childhood Learning Environments program to students at Bellevue Community College, effective July 12, 2005. Both programs are described below.

BA in Mathematics: Teaching Secondary Major – Approved June 2005

CWU received approval to build on current coursework offered at the Lynnwood Center in support of the secondary mathematics certificate and the BA in Education by adding a BA in Mathematics: Teaching Secondary Major.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reports that there is a “some shortage” of secondary math teachers in Washington, and eight out of nine educational service districts report a shortage of math instructors. Graduates of this program will be qualified to teach math in public high schools in Washington state.

Beginning fall of 2005, the program will accommodate eight students in the first year, and 15 students at full enrollment. It will be offered as a self-supporting degree program, but may transition to a state-supported program if funding is available.

Three of the surrounding community colleges Cascadia, Edmonds, and Shoreline provided letters of support for the program. In accordance with HECB Board Policies and Procedures, the program proposal was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed expansion of the program.

BA in Children's Studies: Early Childhood Learning Environments – Approved July 2005

Approval has been granted for the BA in Children's Studies at EWU to extend its existing program offered in Cheney to students in the Bellevue area. Beginning in the fall of 2005, the program will be offered through in-person instruction by EWU faculty and qualified part-time instructors in the evening and on weekends at Bellevue Community College. Students would enter the program as juniors, transferring approximately 90 credits. They would then be required to complete an additional 90 credits -- including 46 required for the major and 44 credits in other university requirements.

Early childhood education is undergoing changes that are pressing for higher levels of education for educators and other providers. The US Department of Education is recommending that all teachers of early childhood education obtain a four-year degree. In addition, there is pressure at the state and federal levels to expand access to pre-school to more students.

The program will enroll cohorts of 25 students and is designed to appeal to working early childhood providers, educators and other early childhood personnel, as well as full-time students seeking a career in early childhood education.

In Accordance with HECB Board Policies and Procedures, the program proposal was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed expansion of the Children's Studies program.